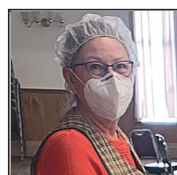


Crime data, p.8



Meals on
Wheels, p.12

Winter Wonderland a Success For Venture Crew and Guests

by Camille O’Roark



PHOTO BY WILL SMITH

The Honk! Situation plays at the Winter Wonderland.

On Saturday, December 10 from 5 to 8 p.m., Venture Crew 746 held their second annual Winter Wonderland holiday fundraiser at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church.

The event featured intricate decorations along a lighted walk through the woods, campfires and a scavenger hunt. Other activities included face painting, a visit from Santa and a 15-minute performance of A Christmas Carol,

by the Kate Robinson Teen Players. There was also live music from Greenbelt Honk! and a police dog demonstration by the Greenbelt Police Department. The Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team and Greenbelt Elementary School had information tables and some fun activities. Christian Horchler, the lead youth coordinator said, “The event was a success! Our turnout was just over 300 people – that’s 100 more than last

year. The generous proceeds from our event will be put back into the crew and used to fund gear, equipment and travel-related expenses.”

Venturing Crew 746 is a troop of scouts ages 14 to 21 who go on trips and have adventures in the wild. In July the crew spent a week canoeing and exploring the Adirondack Mountains. Venture See **WONDERLAND**, page 12

Jonathan Briggs: Our Newest County School Board Member

by Susan Taylor



PHOTO COURTESY JONATHAN BRIGGS

Jonathan Briggs in Tulsa, OK, with Teach for America in 2013

“At the end of the day, it’s about our kids and their futures,” declared Jonathan Briggs, 34, the newly elected Prince George’s County School Board member for District 2, representing Greenbelt.

“It’s how we put kids first. How do we work in partnership with everyone in the community, for everyone? I understand what’s at stake when we don’t get it right. Kids deserve to receive education that prepares them for

everything they desire to do.”

Briggs began his two-year term on December 5 and looks forward to tackling the budget starting with the December 8 meeting. “It was an election year, so it’s a little bit delayed,” he said. He’s also looking forward to “meeting and building relationships with principals and parents.”

See **BRIGGS**, page 7

What Goes On

Monday, December 19 7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Police Reform, Municipal Building
Wednesday, December 21 No meeting

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Children’s Medicine Shortages Hitting Pharmacies in Greenbelt

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

After last winter, with its onset of Omicron, school closings and no Covid-19 vaccine yet available to children under two, one might have thought things could only get better for parents and their little ones. However, the challenges have continued throughout 2022 with shortages of baby formula and pediatric needles and recently a surge of fall and winter illnesses, accompanied by less availability of sick visits at understaffed pediatricians’ offices. In addition,

the knock-on effect of the triad of serious viruses currently affecting children – Covid, flu and RSV – is a sudden shortage of children’s fever-reducers and pain medication.

On December 3, National Public Radio reported the present “tripledemic” means fever-reducing medicines are in short supply. The supply chain is strong, but demand is surging, they reported.

A week later, the situation See **MEDICINE**, page 7



PHOTO BY BARRETT BEDFORD-DILLOW

Infant and children’s pain and fever shelves were bare at the Greenbelt CVS on Sunday.

Council Acts on Maglev Brief, Legislative Issues, Purchases

by Deb Daniel

Greenbelt City Council authorized Jill Grant and Associates to research and perform an amicus brief in support of Westport Development Corporation’s opposition to the maglev condemnation of land needed for the project. According to Wikipedia, an amicus curia (literally friend of the court) is an individual or organization who is not a party to a legal case, but may assist a court by offering relevant information, expertise or insight.

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked Interim City Manager Timothy George to provide an estimate of monies and a timeline for this legal intervention. George replied that council allocated \$250,000 in the 2023 budget for maglev legal expenses and no additional monies are required. Councilmember Colin Byrd thanked Councilmembers Judith Davis and Rodney Roberts for their leadership in bringing this project to fruition. The motion to authorize Jill See **COUNCIL**, page 6

Council Announces Members Of Reparations Commission

This week, the City Council officially announced the newly appointed 21-member Reparations Commission: Tom Adams, Chelsea Barnes, Rhema Bjorkland, Francis DeBernardo, Lorena Ferdinand, Yahshuah Ford, Joseph Hamlin, Adriane Harris, Konrad Herling, Chiquita Jackson, London McCloud, Mark Miller,

Shabnam Mojtajedi, Denise Nadasen, Robert Rand, Lois Rosado, René Sewell-Rayson, Jonathan Taylor, Pamela Taylor, Sarah Wampler and, James Williams, Jr.

Alternates: Gail Crichlow and Mark Wilson

The Reparations Committee is set to have their inaugural meeting in January 2023.

Letters to the Editor

Traffic Calming On Lastner Lane

I think it's great that the city is experimenting with traffic calming on Lastner Lane by not painting centerlines. In the past, we've had several parked cars damaged on that street and speeding drivers have routinely blown through the stop signs. Centerline markings on neighborhood streets make the street look more like a high-speed road. They signal to drivers that the lane is theirs as long as they don't cross the center. However, they are not required or even recommended on neighborhood streets. The Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices ([muted.fhwa.dot.gov/htm/2009/part3/part3b.htm](https://www.fhwa.gov/htm/2009/part3/part3b.htm)) standard for centerline painting is for roads with 20 feet or more of "traveled way" and that serve at least 6,000 vehicles per day. For more professional discussion of centerline striping on residential streets, see [strongtowns.org/journal/2016/10/31/ask-r-moses-does-center-line-striping-make-streets-safer](https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2016/10/31/ask-r-moses-does-center-line-striping-make-streets-safer).

FHA's Manual standards for centerline striping do not apply to residential neighborhood streets with low traffic counts and speed limits like Lastner Lane – therefore, it's our choice if we want them or not. In my opinion, the residents of Lastner Lane and other nearby streets should have the most say on the matter. Is the street safer for drivers, walkers, kids playing in the yards, people getting into and out of parked cars, bike riders and so on, with centerline striping or not? In my opinion, delivery drivers, buses and cut-through drivers go slower without the centerlines. Moreover, I think centerline striping triggers apps like Google/Waze to direct more traffic through Greenbelt. Finally, I think if drivers need centerlines to safely navigate a street during low-visibility conditions, they are probably trying to drive too fast! That said, it's

an open question for residents to decide, and others may not share my opinions, which is fine.

It does bother me that someone on the city staff apparently blamed one resident rather than explaining the pros and cons. The staffer I spoke with was extremely polite, listened to my idea, read the materials I sent and moved the idea up the food chain. That's really all I can ask from city staff – I appreciate the courtesy and great public service!

Jeff Lemieux

Current Sad Condition Of Greenbelt Park

The July microburst storm that knocked out power in Greenbelt also downed dozens of trees in Greenbelt Park, closing all the trails. Many of us who enjoy running and hiking in this oasis of tranquility are eager to return to our exercise regime.

Yet months later, only the paved roads have been cleared of fallen trees and the campground and one picnic area reopened. The trails remain off limits. The restrooms are in dire need of freshening and campsites are eroded.

Despite an on-site maintenance department, no one working there is certified to operate a chainsaw. My recent visit there to ask about any ongoing trail clearing was greeted with thinly veiled hostility and my questions answered with stony silence. Rangers and volunteers from a nearby national park, licensed to use such equipment, have expressed a keen interest to help. No one with authority from the National Park Service (NPS) has responded to their offer by granting them permission to work in Greenbelt Park and alleviate the logjam.

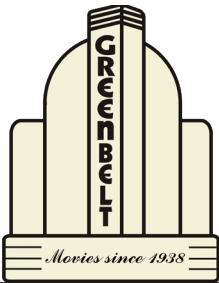
My attempts to contact the NPS by phone or email have been unsuccessful, as no one has responded to my inquiries. Their robotic phone answering machine provided no useful information.

It may well be time to reach out to the NPS. Please see **LETTERS**, page 4



Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 22 issue.
(There is a charge.
Contact ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.)



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
DECEMBER 16TH – 22ND

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Screen 2 - The Screening Room

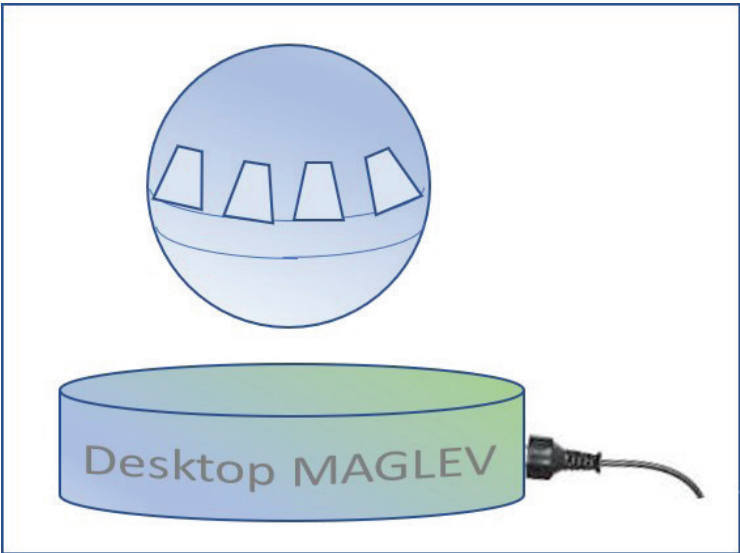
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (112 mins)
Screen 1

Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM
Sun. 1:45 PM (OC), 4:30 PM
Mon. 1:45 PM, 4:30 PM
Tues. 6:15 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

All The Beauty And The Bloodshed (NR) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (117 mins)
Screen 2

Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tues. 6:00 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Elf (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2003)
(97 mins) Tickets just \$5
when you bring a donation
of new socks/gloves!
Screen 1
Sat. 1:00 PM



All I want for Christmas is ... Maglev going nowhere.

Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

Spoiler Alert

Based on Michael Ausiello's best-selling memoir *Spoiler Alert: The Hero Dies*, the film is a heartwarming, funny and life-affirming story of how the relationship between Michael (Jim Parsons) and his husband Kit Cowan (Ben Aldridge) is transformed and deepened when Cowan falls ill. Sally Field and Bill Irwin play Cowan's parents. Said critic Sara Clements of *Pajiba*, "Spoiler Alert is an incredibly sweet and sincere exploration of love and relationships, and also turns out to be a touching film about found family. It succeeds in exuding what we look for most this time of year: warmth."

All the Beauty and the Bloodshed

Directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Laura Poitras, the film is an epic, emotional and interconnected story about internationally renowned artist and activist Nan Goldin told through her slideshows, intimate interviews, ground-breaking photography and rare footage of her personal fight to hold the Sackler family accountable for the overdose crisis.

Elf

Buddy (Will Ferrell) was accidentally transported to the North Pole as a toddler and raised to adulthood among Santa's elves. Unable to shake the feeling that he doesn't fit in, the adult Buddy travels to New York, in full elf uniform, in search of his real father. As it happens, this is Walter Hobbs (James Caan), a cynical businessman. After a DNA test proves this, Walter reluctantly attempts to start a relationship with the childlike Buddy with increasingly chaotic results.

Community Events

GAIL Caregiver Support Program

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is hosting a program both online and in-person for caregiver support groups. The group provides support for adult children, spouses, family or friends who provide care to a loved one.

In-person meetings begin in January. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Community Center, Ground Floor East. The virtual session will be on the third Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required and groups are limited to 10 participants. Contact Sharon Johnson, group facilitator, at 240-542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov. A Zoom link will be provided to registered participants.

For Food Donations Connect with Porch

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food in the month of December. On the scheduled monthly pick-up date leave donations, marked RUAK or PORCH, by the front door and visible from the street. Ensure donated items have not expired.

The schedule follows:

Saturday, December 17: by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, December 18: by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors)

Sunday, December 18: by 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and for 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, December 18: by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome, particularly coordinators in Greenbelt East. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH can contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Reel and Meal Film Shows Mining Impacts

On Monday, December 19 all are welcome at the monthly Reel & Meal at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center. The featured film is *The Shadow of Gold*, produced by Bullfrog Films. The documentary investigates from two perspectives how gold is extracted: the mining companies that dig deep and lop off mountaintops and the 20 million miners in the world's poorest nations who extract gold by hand earning just enough to survive. Discussion after the screening will be led by local labor activist Kurt Stand.

The film will be screened in-house and via Zoom. The free program starts at 7 p.m. Prior registration is required for virtual attendees at tinyurl.com/ReelNMealDec19. Sign in any time after 6:45 p.m. At the Café, dinners will be available after 4 p.m., including some plant-based options. Carryout Co-op Supermarket Meatless Monday meals can be picked up for Zoom at-home viewing after 11 a.m. from the Deli Hot Bar with Dodah's Spinach Lasagna (vegan) featured.

The Shadow of Gold follows the global supply chain of this precious metal, with attention to both environmental and business perspectives. It presents the severe social and ecological impacts of contemporary mining, as well as potential options for more sustainable practices. The filmmakers hope that it will encourage viewers to take steps to protect the land and the laborers that suffer from gold mining.

Reel & Meal is a monthly film series on peace, social justice, animal rights and environmental issues. Its sponsors are Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition. For more information, see Reel & Meal at the New Deal Café on Facebook or contact Lucy Duff at justpeacepg@gmail.com or 202-549-5574.



Image from the film The Shadow of Gold

Help Restore Woodland At Hillside Underpass

Help prepare ground for the benefit of fireflies, butterflies and birds. The GHI Woodlands Committee is hosting a workday on Saturday, December 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will remove invasive shrubs and vines to prepare for planting bare root elderberry, spicebush and native wildflowers above the Hillside underpass. To participate, meet on the bike path by the underpass, just a bit uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary.

What to bring:

1. A face mask for when in close proximity to others.
2. Clothes that cover the skin. Wear leather gloves and thick pants to protect against scratches.
3. Bring loppers, pruning shears and shovels.

For more information, email SowingStrength2@gmail.com.

Homeschoolers Meet At Youth Center

Monday meet-ups at the Greenbelt Youth Center are back for the Greenbelt homeschoolers. Every Monday from January 23 through May 22, except for federal holidays, the group will gather from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with play for children and support for parents. All ages invited.

The group will meet in the Youth Center's Multipurpose Room for play, socialization, age-appropriate activities and games and a brown bag lunch. All families in and near Greenbelt are invited to join. This is not a drop-off program; children must be directly supervised by their adult.

Contact Li'l Dan, parent volunteer/city liaison, at dceldran@hotmail.com or 240-643-3768 with questions or to RSVP before January 23.

Hallelujah Singalong At Chorale Concert

Sing along to the Hallelujah chorus with the Central Maryland Chorale at their holiday concert Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Laurel. After a pandemic-caused hiatus, the choir is resuming their regular concert series with this winter program, which will feature Vivaldi's *Gloria* (choruses only) along with holiday selections from around the world. The Hallelujah chorus is the finale.

The chorale includes several members from Greenbelt and was popular with local music fans pre-pandemic for its full-on audience participation of Handel's *Messiah* every December. This concert is reduced in size and duration, and is being held at the Laurel Presbyterian Church, 7610 Sandy Spring Road, just a 20-minute drive from Greenbelt.

Tickets are available at the door for a small charge (see ad in this week's newspaper), and kids under 12 are free. There will be a brief intermission along with a craft fair. Masks are optional and will be available at the door. For more information including how to join the choir for future concerts, visit centralmarylandchorale.org.

Golden Age December Activities

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the second-floor meeting room of the Community Center. New members and visitors are welcome.

December 21 – BINGO or other activity

December 28 – No meeting

Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party on Saturday, December 17 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see Saturn, Jupiter and Mars, as well as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. All are welcome, no charge, and visitors are encouraged to set up their own telescopes on the hilltop.

Observing will begin at 6 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.



Greenbelt Chess Club Meets Monday Evening

The Greenbelt Chess Club's next meeting is Monday, December 19 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the New Deal Café. The group welcomes all ages and skill levels. Teaching is provided by friendly members if needed. Participants may bring their own chess set if preferred.

For any questions call Effie at 443-415-1053.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.



Greenbelt Access Television

Greenbelt Access Television

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77

(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	Classic Movies	Royal Wedding • 1951 Fred Astaire, Jane Powell
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	G. James Gholson v Thomas Johnson
2pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON FIVE	Oxymorons • Funk, Blues, Rock, Roots
3pm	Classic Movies	Royal Wedding • 1951 Fred Astaire, Jane Powell
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	G. James Gholson v Thomas Johnson
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	Classic Movies	Royal Wedding • 1951 Fred Astaire, Jane Powell
10pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON FIVE	Oxymorons • Funk, Blues, Rock, Roots
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming

Connect with GATe    www.greenbeltaccessstv.org



Greenbelt, MD

2022 Washington City Paper Awards Winner

THIS WEEK AT THE NEW DEAL CAFE!

The ONLY venue in Greenbelt with BOTH dinner and a show!

Happy Hour! Monday - Friday, 4 - 7pm: \$1.00 OFF BEER & WINE!



Thursday, 12/15, The Paulverzizers (DMV Musicians; Hard-Driving Blues), Emceed by Greenbelt Author Mark Opsasnick ("Rock the Potomac"), 7:00 - 9:00pm

Friday, 12/16, The Hula Monsters (Hawaiian Swing and More!), 8:00 - 11:00pm

Saturday, 12/17, Zoom Poetry Open Mic, 1:00 - 3:00pm;
Saturday Jazz Jam, 2:00 - 5:00pm;
IlyAIMY (Mix of Eclectically Humorous Genres), 8:00 - 11:00pm

Sunday, 12/18, Fairy Hair by Claire Event. Add Sparkle to Your Hair! 11:30am - 3:30pm;
Fez Tones Hafla (Middle Eastern Music & Dance), 6:00 - 8:00pm

Monday, 12/19, REEL & MEAL, "The Shadow of Gold," 7:00 - 9:00pm

Tuesday, 12/20, Open Mic with Joey Campfire, 6:30 - 9pm

Wednesday, 12/21, PUB QUIZ. TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE! 7:00 - 9:00pm

Thursday, 12/22, Susan Jones Quartet (Eclectic Violin Led Jazz), 7:00 - 9:00pm

NEW DEAL CAFE GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

www.newdealcafe.com, click on BECOME A MEMBER.

New Deal Cafe, 113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD 20770

"Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op"

Mon-Thurs, 8am-9pm / Fri-Sat, 8am-12mid / Sun, 9am-9pm

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

City Notes

The Museum’s Deco the Halls evening open house welcomed over 75 visitors.

Building Maintenance readied the Community Center kitchen for the resumption of in-person senior lunches.

Street Maintenance/Special Details, expecting snow, greased and tested plows and installed salt spreaders and snow shields.

Horticulture/Parks removed 11 loads of curbside leaves and decorated Greenbelt Station’s pavilion.

Refuse/Recycling collected 24.26 tons of refuse and 10.99 tons of recyclables.

The Animal Shelter hosts 11 cats, five kittens, two dogs and three bunnies.

The Community Center hosted a Red Cross blood drive, an ongoing Lions Club holiday toy collection and meetings of the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program; Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society; Concert Band; Golden Age Club; Interfaith Leadership and Greenbrook Estates.

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC) hosted aquatic facility operators training and GAFC staff completed lifeguard, first aid/cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator recertification.

Therapeutic Recreation and Public Works took seniors to Columbia Mall and park rangers welcomed Beltsville Garden Club merrymakers to Schrom Hills Park Pavilion.

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library’s regular hours are: Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. Face masks are recommended for all customers and staff over the age of 2 in Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) buildings.

Last Call

The student art exhibit Expressing Your Superpower Through the Arts on display at the Greenbelt Library will be closing after Friday, December 16. These works of art were created by local students, grades 7 through 11. The artworks, curated by the Harbor City Maryland Chapter of The Society, Inc., were judged by three creative arts subject-matter experts.

Weekly Storytimes

Wednesday, ages 3 to 5, 12:15 p.m. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7390921. Come for stories, songs, fingerplays and more.

Teen Action Group (TAG)

Wednesday, December 21, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 to 18 (teen). Need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in the community and gain friends from around the area. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7390201.

Virtual Book Discussion

Tuesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m. Join friends and neighbors for a lively virtual book discussion presented by the Greenbelt Library. This month’s discussion is Learning to Talk: Stories by Hilary Mantel. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7378666. Pick up a copy at the Library, search for the book and submit a request via the catalog at pgcmls.info or contact Ask a Librarian/Biblio Consulta at 240- 455-5451 for assistance.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 19-23

Monday, December 19 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - POLICE REFORM**

Wednesday, December 21, **NO MEETING**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.



HOLIDAY SHOP WITH A COP DONATIONS NEEDED
HELP BRING JOY TO KIDS IN NEED

Monetary donations greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to “City of Greenbelt.” Mail to: 25 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770

GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN!

WINTER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Classes for children and adults! Fitness, Art, Swimming, Dance, Yoga,Ceramics, & More... Check out our Winter 2022 Activity Guide for gift ideas or call Greenbelt Recreation at (301) 397-2200 or visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide

GREENBELT LITTLES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

This program is for kids ages 3-5 years. Children must be fully potty-trained. Winter and Spring classes available. Call (301) 397-2200.



DO YOU QUALIFY FOR A FREE LAPTOP?
Connect Greenbelt Grant

Deadline to register is Friday, December 16 at 5 pm

The City of Greenbelt is applying for the Connect Maryland Grant to provide free Chromebook laptops to income qualified families of incorporated Greenbelt that pre-register and qualify. If you would like more information and to see if you are potentially eligible, please use the QR code or link below.

Please note that by completing this pre-registration form it does not guarantee that you will receive a laptop. The City is competing against other jurisdictions and counties in the State of Maryland for the Connect Maryland Grant.

For more information please visit www.greenbeltmd.gov or call (240) 542-2019 or (240) 542-2012.

To pre-register visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/laptop or use the QR code:



Greenbelt ARPA Funds Assistance Programs Update
(as of 12/5/22)

Rent and Utility Assistance
· 396 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$1,958,253.04

Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance
· 17 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$61,856.17

GREENBELT RECREATION’S
2023 WINTER ACTIVITY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide to view and register.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Greenbelt Board of Appeals – Case #22-008V

Notice is hereby given that the Greenbelt Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 7 pm in the Greenbelt Community Center (Room 114), 15 Crescent Road, Room 103, Greenbelt, MD on the following variance application:

An application filed by Dana Tompkins and Thomas Aten for consideration of a request for a variance on premises located at 3 Forestway, Greenbelt, MD. The Applicants are requesting a variance from the front yard setback requirement to allow for a maximum 20-foot encroachment into the required 25-foot front yard setback for the purpose of renovating the existing dwelling, including reconfiguring the roof, and constructing an addition on the existing dwelling.

For more information, call (301) 345-5417.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

FREE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

CARES currently has daytime hours available from 9 am-4 pm for individual counseling for ages 16+. Waitlist available for evening hours starting at 5 pm.

Call (301) 345-6660 or email cares@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

This FREE program is available for Greenbelt families with newborns to 2 years old. Service includes monthly diapers, formula, baby milestone progress review, and more.

Call (240) 542-2019 or email kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is offering support groups online or in-person beginning January 2023. Registration required.

In-person: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm at Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Online: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2-3 pm.

Call (240) 542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

This FREE program occurs every 3rd Thursday of the month from 1-3 pm. Look at this section of the GNR or the City calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar for information.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE
CITY’S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas).. This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh’s Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND: Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

GREENBELT RECREATION: Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT
WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Road 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

Grant and Associates for research and a possible filing of an amicus brief passed unanimously.

Legislative Priorities

Agreement on the final list of city, state and county legislative priorities was sought. Jordan suggested making the Greenbelt Metro Station improvements a priority. Councilmember Kristen Weaver suggested dropping food truck legislation from the list because the state and county have recently changed their legislation. George noted that Greenbelt remains subject to all the permitting requirements as before with Davis stating that Greenbelt will still need to investigate city-level legislation pertaining to food-truck permitting. Davis suggested adding sidewalk maintenance along state highways to the list of priorities. Other topics included Greenbelt school boundary changes.

Jordan suggested the Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center might need closer examination as to how trucks will arrive there; he was concerned this might mean changes to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to allow truck traffic. In connection with this, Roberts wanted to retain the priority of opposing privatization of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Jordan concurred. Greenbelt resident Michael Hartman suggested that since the Community Solar project will expire in 2024, priority should be given to making it a permanent item.

Jordan asked George to have staff research these priorities and prepare a booklet that can be given to state and county representatives at the upcoming legislative dinner.

Vehicle Purchases

Three vehicles will be purchased for \$90,426 (two for Animal Control and one for the Crisis Intervention Team). Police Chief Richard Bowers noted the previous order of Animal Control

vehicles was cancelled by the manufacturer and that the new Crisis Intervention Team member expected in January will need a vehicle.

Roberts noted that the average lifespan of a vehicle is about 20 years and vehicles can be retrofitted for electric or fuel cell use. Jordan and Gordon both hoped this would be the last vehicle purchase for this budget year and also that Greenbelt would transition to an electric fleet. Davis recommended adding electric charging stations to the budget at the prebudget meetings and this was unanimously approved by council.

Wi-Fi Equipment

The purchase of Meraki Wi-Fi equipment (access points and firewall) will extend the communications networks in Greenbelt for a total cost of \$50,506. Director of Information Technology Dale Worley explained that the areas most in need of access are primarily in central Greenbelt but that parts of Franklin Park will be assessed. Byrd suggested that the Schrom Hills Park pavilion and Springhill Lake’s rear open areas should be considered in the future for assessment. Weaver noted that the purchased equipment is for indoor, not outdoor spaces and that the challenge with large outdoor spaces involves an expensive backhaul provision, which connects the central network to individual or public networks. Worley added that the floating Wi-Fi access points could be moved temporarily to areas where connectivity is needed. Purchase was unanimously approved by council.

Administrative Reports

George is working with Elizabeth Park, director of CARES, and Christine Peusch, executive director of the Maryland State Child Care Association, to start the development of a Childcare Voucher Program using American Rescue Plan Act funds. George is also researching partnership op-

portunities for the program. When the voucher program is ready for review, it will come up for discussion and approval at a regular council meeting.

George mentioned Economic Development Manager Kevin Simpson’s work on grants and micro-loans for small businesses and that staff members are now training on the new financial management systems. George also noted that the Comcast renewal franchise agreement had been 10 years in the making and had involved many resolute staff members in its development. He felt that, as a result of their efforts, this agreement is one of the most beneficial given to a municipality.

Readers may find all the source documents for this article by going to the city website at greenbeltnmd.gov and clicking on the button for Municipal Access TV, which links to the page for council meetings. Find the Agenda Packet for the meeting dated Nov. 28, 2022 and open it for links to the agenda documents.

Become a Plogger: Make Greenbelt Sparkle

What is “plogging”? It’s an eco-friendly exercise that involves picking up trash while jogging or walking – taking care of one’s health at the same time. Plogging was coined by Swedish outdoorsman and environmentalist Erik Ahlstrom and comes from plocka, the Swedish word for pick up.

Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK initiative, is a fun and engaging way to clean up litter from the streets, paths, streams and ponds while raising awareness on the importance of preventing storm-water pollution.

Join other fellow Greenbelters in helping make Greenbelt sparkle.

Those interested in joining Greenbelt Plogs should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Writers Group Holds Holiday Party Dec. 16

All Greenbelt writers are invited to attend an informal get-together with the Greenbelt Writers Group on Friday night, December 16. Exact time and venue are still being finalized.

Attendees don’t need to be members of the Greenbelt Writers Group. Members will be notified of details by email. Nonmembers who wish more information (or to get on the email list), contact Barbara Ford at barb.ford@comcast.net.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.



Meals on Wheels of College Park

Thanks to our volunteers and donors for their support in fighting hunger and food insecurity

For more information, to volunteer, and to make an end-of-year or recurring donation, visit mealsonwheelsofcollegepark.org

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Hector M. Gonzalez, MD
OB/GYN, FPMRS

AAUrology
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Greenbelt, MD 20770
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aaurology.com

Send Holiday Greetings
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(There is a charge.
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A Decade's Data Shows Raised Safety Gap in Greenbelt Areas

by Stephanie Quinn

This first report on Greenbelt's crime data focuses on geographic implications. A second report will focus on types of crime in Greenbelt.

The number of larcenies, or thefts, in the first nine months of the year in Greenbelt rose by 28 percent between 2021 and 2022, the largest yearly increase in the past decade, according to monthly crime data from the Greenbelt Police Department.

Between 2013 and 2022, the share of larceny in Greenbelt grew most in the Franklin Park area, but Greenbelt Center, often known as Old Greenbelt, has seen more of the most recent increase.

"We take crime just as seriously in Franklin Park as we do in Greenbelt Center," said Greenbelt Police Department spokesperson Hannah Glasgow. "There's a lot of community conversation, and we get a little bit more from those Facebook groups when it's Center incidents. But that really doesn't affect how our officers do their job."

This story used monthly crime data from January through September of each year from 2013 to 2022, since monthly reports for 2022 were only available through September at the time of writing. The data includes only part 1 offenses counted in accordance with the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting standards that Greenbelt

Police were able to confirm. This article uses the police's geographic sectors to describe Greenbelt. The FBI defines larceny as theft not by force or fraud, including commercial theft, residential theft and theft from auto, including theft of auto parts. Motor vehicle theft is a separate category.

Every year since 2013, Franklin Park saw more larceny than Old Greenbelt between January and September. Greenbelt East saw more larceny than Old Greenbelt during this period in each of the past 10 years.

The crime gap between Franklin Park and Old Greenbelt has widened over the past decade.

At the end of September 2013, Franklin Park and Old Greenbelt had seen about the same number of larcenies for that year. In fact, more larcenies had happened in Old Greenbelt – 98 to the Franklin Park area's 96.

In 2020, the year when the difference between the two sectors' share of larcenies from January through September was widest, Franklin Park had seen more than twice as many larcenies as Old Greenbelt – 159 compared to 70. As of the end of September 2022, 39.5 percent more larcenies had been recorded in Franklin Park (180) than Old Greenbelt (129).

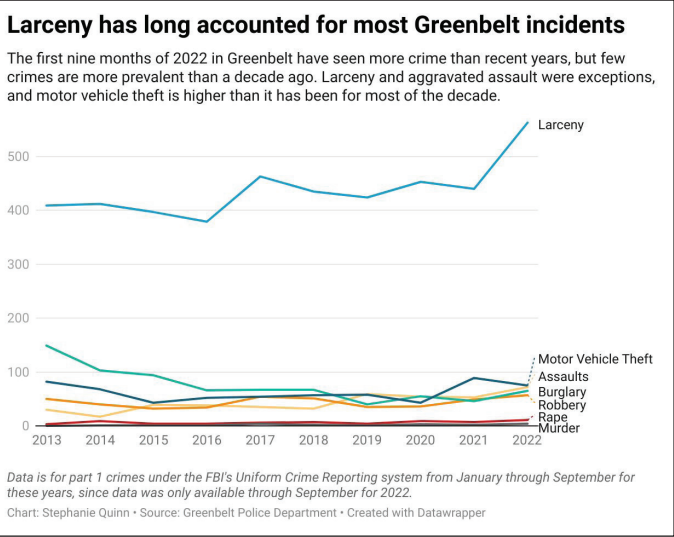
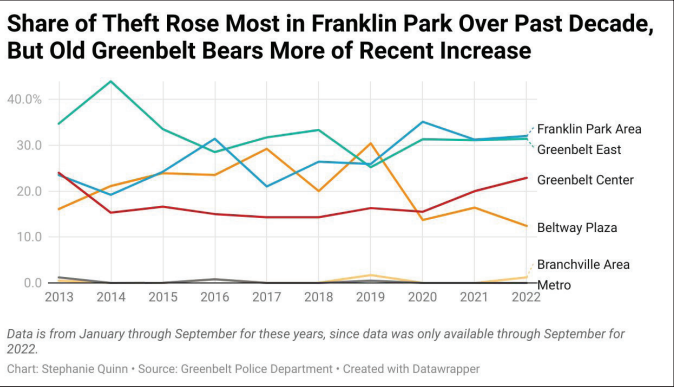
Glasgow said theft from autos, including theft of auto parts such as airbags and catalytic convert-

ers, has spiked in Greenbelt and Prince George's County alike.

Monthly crime data show that theft of motor vehicles has risen over the past five years. While there had been 75 confirmed motor vehicle thefts by the end of September 2022, there were 89 for that period in 2021, the highest in the decade. While Old Greenbelt's share of motor vehicle thefts has increased over the past five years from 7 percent to 16 percent, at the end of September Franklin Park had seen well over double Old Greenbelt's number of motor vehicle thefts and 41.3 percent of Greenbelt's total.

"We have individuals who are part of lower income brackets, and unfortunately that's who we see becoming victims to a lot of the crime in Greenbelt," Glasgow said.

Glasgow said the city's police urge residents to lock their cars, park in well-lit areas and leave no property in plain view. Owners of hybrids, whose catalytic converters contain higher quantities of precious metals, should take particular care. The department encourages residents to consider the Takoma Park Police Department's Etch and Catch catalytic converter theft prevention program. The Takoma Park Police Department partnered with a local auto shop that etches vehicle owners' license plate numbers on



- Charts by Stephanie Quinn

their catalytic converters free of charge.

"By putting in these extra roadblocks," Glasgow said, "hopefully it would make whoever's thinking about targeting your property or your vehicle say, 'No, I'll go for an easier target.'"

Jessica Helms, 34, a librarian living in Greenbelt said she remembers reports of checks stolen from U.S. Postal Service mailboxes after the pandemic compelled many people to tele-

work, but that she considers her neighborhood in Old Greenbelt "pretty safe."

For Pat Kennedy, 62, a retiree living in Greenbelt East, a couple of isolated incidents have not prevented her from feeling safe if she needs to go out at night. She said, "I think I'm at the age where I don't care anymore. If it happens, it happens. What am I going to do about it?"

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred from December 5 through December 11. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

COMMUNITY ALERT
Throughout the month of December, Greenbelt Police officers will be conducting a crime suppression operation in Franklin Park. During this time, two officers will be solely dedicated to patrolling Franklin Park Apartments and investigating suspicious activity in addition to the regular beat officer in the area every shift.

Armed Person
On December 11 at 2:32 a.m. near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a male suspect wearing a black jacket, black jeans and a black ski mask was found sleeping on a couch in the common area. A victim woke the suspect who then displayed a brass-knuckled knife pointed and extended towards the victim. The victim announced himself as a PGPD officer and the suspect dropped the knife and ran out of the building. The suspect was not located.

Assault
On December 9 at 7:03 a.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a couple reported an unknown individual assaulted them. On December 10 at 7:29 p.m. near 100 Centerway, a 61-year-old man accused a 16-year-old of shoplifting. The teenager and witnesses attempted to tell the man that the teenager was not shoplifting, but the man retrieved a baton and struck the teenager twice. The man was arrested for second-degree assault. The victim sustained no visible injuries and did not want any medical treatment.

Break-in
On December 10 at 3:47 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, the glass door of a business was broken and register tampered with. On December 11 at 6:59 a.m. near Crescent Road, a victim woke up to an unknown male standing at the foot of their bed; the victim yelled at the suspect to leave and he did. Suspect got into the residence through an unlocked door; nothing taken.

Child Found Unattended
On December 9 at 11:24 a.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2-year-old child was found unattended. Officers immediately recognized the child from multiple previous calls for being unattended; Child Protective Services notified.

Dispute
On December 5 at 6:45 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a dispute between employees. On December 8 at 10:55 p.m. near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a parking dispute ended with a hit and run.

DUI
On December 7 at 7:01 p.m. near Edmonston Road/Edmonston Court. On December 11 at 6:55 p.m. near Greenbelt Road/Kenilworth Avenue.

Firearm and Illegal Substances
On December 6 at 9:27 p.m. an officer working the crime suppression operation observed a car with illegal tint and conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Cherrywood Lane and Springhill Drive. In a probable cause search of the car, the officer located a stolen firearm and illegal substances. The 24-year-old driver was arrested.

On December 7 at 3:53 p.m., an officer working the crime suppression operation observed a car with illegal tint and conducted a traffic stop in the 6200 block of Springhill Road. During a probable cause search of the car, officers located a handgun and large amounts of a controlled substance. The 22-year-old driver was arrested for multiple drug- and gun-related offenses.

Fraud
On December 6 at 2:34 p.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, online PayPal fraud; at 3:40 p.m. near 7800 Jacobs Drive, identity theft; and at 7:44 p.m. near Ridge Road, unauthorized credit card

transaction. On December 8 at 6:19 p.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, electronic benefit transfer fraud. On December 9 at 1:04 p.m. near 8100 Lakecrest Drive, rent scheme fraud. On December 10 at 12:50 p.m. near 8000 Mandan Road, credit card fraud.

Missing Person
On December 7 at 2:31 a.m. near 550 Crescent Road, a missing person from New Jersey arrived at station to say they are safe.

Shooting
On December 10, at approximately 7:34 p.m., Greenbelt Police officers responded to the 7800 block of Lakecrest Drive for the report of a shooting. Officers located shell casings, but no injuries have been reported at this time.

Theft
On December 5 at 11:28 a.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, package theft; and at 2:32 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft. On December 6 at 9:48 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Ct., package theft. On December 7 at 3:40 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft. On December 8 at 6:52 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft; at 1:03 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft; at 1:07 p.m. near 7500 Mandan Road, money order stolen from mail; at 1:26 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft; and at 6:08 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Drive, package theft. On December 10 at 10:25 a.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft; at 1:16 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft; and at 8:06 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace, personal property stolen from residence.

Vandalism
On December 5 at 4:08 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Drive, a residence window was broken by

two juveniles; resident advised of options. On December 8 at 5:38 p.m. near 7800 Walker Drive, personal property damaged by unknown individual; no forced entry. On December 9 at 12:05 a.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, graffiti on basketball court documented.

Warrant for Arrest
On December 9 at 7:28 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, it was determined during a traffic stop the driver had a warrant out for his arrest. The adult man was taken into custody and transported to the Department of Corrections.

Vehicle Crimes
Auto Stolen
On December 5 at 9:21 a.m. near Ridge Road, a white 2014 Toyota Venza (Md. plate 3BH5742) was stolen. On December 6 at 9:35 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an off-duty Prince George's County Police Department officer observed a car run a red light and attempted to pull the car over. The car fled and then crashed into a business. It was then determined the car, a 2016 Hyundai Sonata, was stolen from the 7800 block of Mandan Road and had ignition damage consistent with auto theft. The driver, a 15-year-old male, was arrested. On December 6 at 2:40 p.m. near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a gray 2010 Toyota Corolla was stolen. On December 7 at 1:23 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, car stolen. On December 8 at 6:41 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, car reported stolen; located on December 10 by D.C. Metro police. On December 9 at 5:37 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, a car stolen from Howard County Police Department was located. On December 10 at 7:33 a.m. near 7600 Mandan Road, a silver 2019 Toyota Camry (Md. plate 4ER4499) was stolen.

Auto Vandalism
On December 5 at 8:02 a.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, rear passenger-side window broken; nothing taken; and at 10:24 a.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, rear passenger-side window broken and ignition damaged on 2016 Hyundai Sonata. On December 7 at 5:01 a.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, passenger-side front window broken and vehicle rummaged through; nothing taken. On December 8 at 3:33 p.m. near 8000 Lakecrest Drive, steering column and ignition damaged on 2008 Hyundai. On December 11 at 5:16 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, rear passenger-side window broken; nothing taken.

Theft from Auto
On December 5 at 7:10 a.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, driver-side window broken; disabled placard stolen. On December 5 at 9:21 a.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, passenger-side window broken; personal property stolen. On December 6 at 6:31 a.m. near 6200 Springhill Drive, back window broken; personal property stolen; at 12:36 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, passenger-side window broken; personal property stolen; and at 5:58 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Ct., two firearms were stolen from unlocked car. On December 7 at 9:14 a.m. near Orange Court, unlocked car rummaged through; nothing taken.



Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 22 issue.
(There is a charge.
Contact ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.)

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BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Sports

Learning to Work Harder to Get Faster:
Track Star Elgin Gordon Now Coaches

by Sununu Bah

When he graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1990, Elgin Gordon was recognized as the Washington area’s fastest high school athlete of all time. That year he set the area record for the 100-meter dash with the time of 10.36 seconds at the National Junior Championships in Fresno, Calif. In his last season at Roosevelt, Gordon went undefeated against interscholastic competition in both the 100 and 200. He also captured gold in the state championships in both events and led the 4x100 and 4x400 relays to victories in state championships, running anchor. Until the age of 13 he had lost nearly all the races he competed in.



PHOTO COURTESY ELGIN GORDON

New ERHS track coach Elgin Gordon was recognized as the Washington area’s fastest high school athlete of all time in 1990.

Gordon went on to run in college and professional meets and is now heading into his 10th year of coaching boys and girls track and field and cross country at Roosevelt. What he learned in his journey to become a better runner he now teaches students on that same Roosevelt track.

Motivation to Improve

Before he began lacing up his spikes at Eleanor Roosevelt in 1986, Gordon had an experience that would alter his fortune in track. He had been running track with Glenarden’s Dellwood Avenue Striders and lost nearly all the races he competed in. That summer, as a rising 9th grader, Gordon ran the last leg of the 400-meter relay and received the baton 30 meters ahead of rival Michael Carter. But Carter overtook him and won the race. Afterward, Gordon joined his teammates, one of whom had passed out from exhaustion and

didn’t know the race was lost. This teammate looked up and asked Gordon if they won the relay. After hearing the reply that they hadn’t, despite their lead, he looked Gordon in the eye and said, “You sorry,” before passing out again. Gordon paused and then said, “Ever since that day, when my friend told me that I’m sorry, my whole track career changed,” Gordon said. He knew he had to work harder to get faster. And he did.

Discipline, Consistency

Working hard, and becoming disciplined, consistent and punctual are all traits that Gordon instills in his students. So when he says the bus leaves at 3:30 p.m. for meets, it is not waiting for anyone at 3:35. Torrance Zellner, who competed against Gordon in high school, said Gordon is “definitely a no-nonsense coach.” Zellner said Gordon knows exactly what it takes for his ath-

letes to be successful – whether it is the workouts or taking the kids to nationally ranked meets to give them the needed exposure. “If they buy into the program and they understand what he’s trying to get out of them, he’ll give them the world,” Zellner said. “He’ll do everything he can do to put them in a good position to succeed.”

A Winning Team

Roosevelt has won 49 state championships in track and field since 1978 although none, yet, under Gordon’s watchful eye. While Gordon said he would love to add to the collection, what he is primarily focused on is having each individual athlete improve the times they had from the beginning of the season. “Each meet should display an athlete’s progression,” he said.

Junior Camille Watford has bought into that concept. She began competing at Roosevelt last indoor season, her sophomore year, after competing mainly in mid- to long-distance races for the Bowie Boys & Girls Tracksters. She said that she began running the 400-meter dash last outdoor season and dropped six seconds since the start of the season.

Junior Lauryn Djaouga has

been competing at Roosevelt since her freshman year, but like Watford, she began running new events and slashed her times in them. Djaouga dropped about two to three seconds in the 100-meter hurdles, she said, and four seconds in the 300-meter hurdles last outdoor season.

Both Djaouga and Watford said that while the variety of workouts the coaches have provided have helped their development, Gordon’s words have had a lasting impact. For Djaouga, it’s, “If you put in the work, then you’re gonna get to where you want to be. And if you don’t put in the work, you’re gonna definitely regret it.” And for Watford, it’s, “Don’t be afraid to push out and just do your best.”

While Gordon has yet to win a state championship coaching, he said he is able to claim three lawyers and a doctor on one relay team and two valedictorians. “You have to stay consistent; you have to stay disciplined and those who learn to, are usually the ones that are successful in everything they do,” Gordon said.

Sununu Bah is a graduate student in journalism at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.

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WONDERLAND continued from page 1

Crew 746’s goals encourage young adults to learn, grow and have fun by participating in hands-on, challenging activities. These scouts are extremely dedicated and hard-working, and they put a lot of work into making the Winter Wonderland

a success. Overall, the Winter Wonderland was a sweet event that brought Greenbelt together for a fun and festive time. *Camille O’Roark is a sixth-grade student at College Park Academy.*



Winter Wonderland trails - Photos by Will Smith



A magical scene at the Winter Wonderland



Scene from the Winter Wonderland



Deer in Greenbelt East

PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

Meals on Wheels Is Named A “Community Champion”

by Karen Yoho

Meals on Wheels of College Park (MOWCP) was recently named a Prince George’s County District 3 Community Champion. College Park Councilmember Dannielle Glaros recognized their service during the Covid-19 pandemic, “For the longtime dedication to providing nutritious meals and vital safety checks to residents in need and for continuing operations during incredibly challenging times over the past two years.” Formed in 1974 to feed a small number of elderly and homebound people in College Park facing hunger and social isolation, MOWCP now provides meal delivery to approximately 170 seniors and persons with disabilities five days a week. MOWCP serves adjoining cities and towns in Prince George’s County, including Greenbelt, Adelphi, Berwyn Heights, Hyattsville, Beltsville and Riverdale Park. “Clients receive a hot, nutritious lunch/dinner, plus healthy options for breakfast, a light lunch or dinner meal and one half-gallon of milk (weekly),” explained Lisa Ealley, president of MOWCP. “More importantly, in addition to ensuring nutritional needs, our caring volunteers perform a wellness check and provide a social link to the isolation they may face.” MOWCP volunteers serve in a wide variety of roles from food preparation and meal packaging, to delivering food to homes, to managing the deliveries to ensure dietary requirements are met

for those on restricted diets. Volunteers are always needed to fill in for an assortment of tasks and schedules are also varied, from monthly and weekly assignments to daily shifts. “Every piece of our operation relies on volunteers. From sticking labels on bags to picking up donated food from farms and restaurants,” said Ealley. MOWCP is seeking the donation of a van or small truck to make these pick-ups easier. Recently, MOWCP volunteers prepared emergency food bags for clients. The City of Greenbelt funded the contents of the bags, which contain shelf-stable foods for times when Meals on Wheels is unable to reach people, such as during winter storms or other weather-related emergencies that may prevent drivers from reaching clients’ homes.



PHOTO BY KAREN YOH0

Meals on Wheels volunteers Charlotte Schomburg (left) and Antoinette Conrad prepare packing for daily deliveries.

“As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank those who serve as volunteers, donate to MOWCP or refer clients to us,” added Ealley. “We want to be a lifeline to those in our community who are food insecure.” To volunteer for the program, or get more information, visit mealsonwheelsofcollegepark.org.

Shop with a Cop



PHOTO COURTESY LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT

Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 Auxiliary Unit representatives Sandi Dutton (with check) and Susan Wiener present a check for \$250 to representatives of the Greenbelt Police Department to be used in its “Shop with a Cop” program to aid children in enhancing their Christmas joy. Police officers from left: Chief Bowers, 2nd Lt. Parsley, Officer Forney, Capt. White and Cpl. Fernandez. There is still time to donate to “Shop with a Cop.” Checks can be made out to the City of Greenbelt with “Shop with a Cop” in the memo. You can deliver or mail donations to 25 Crescent Rd, Greenbelt, MD 20770.



Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 22 issue. (There is a charge. Contact ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.)



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